

## **Political Thought and War in 20th century Europe**

Centre for War Studies, University College Dublin  
Sept 25, 2015

This international workshop brings together scholars of modern European history specializing in the history of European political thought and war studies in order to examine the ways the two World Wars changed the perception and conceptualization of politics and the political sphere in Europe. The workshop will focus on immediate reactions to war, and the two periods discussed are “post-1918” and “post-1945”. Some of the themes examined are the foundational principles of the state, nations and nationalism, democracy, justice, and humanity.

East Central Europe is the focal point of the conversation, as the changes there were most dramatic. The research team of the ERC funded ‘Negotiating Modernity: History of Modern Political Thought in East Central Europe’ project will introduce some of its findings on the topic giving the Irish audience a unique chance to discuss this little known area of modern European history.

The workshop is made possible by the New Foundations Grant of the Irish Research Council.

**Political Thought and War in 20th century Europe**  
Venue: UCD School of History, Newman building, K115

**9.30 Welcome**

Prof. Robert Gerwarth (UCD, Centre for War Studies)

**9.40-10.00 Introduction of the Negotiating Modernity project**

Dr Balazs Trencsenyi and Dr Maria Falina

**10.00-11.30 Post-1918/ I *State- and nation-building in East Central Europe after WWI***

Ideas of self-determination

Dr Balazs Trencsenyi (CEU)

Comments: Dr William Mulligan (UCD, School of History)

Centralism, federalism and regionalist discourses

Dr Maria Falina (UCD, Centre for War Studies)

Comments: Dr John Paul Newman (NUIM)

**11.30-12.00 Coffee break**

**12.00-13.30**

**Post-1918// II *International order in Europe after WWI***

Supra-national federal projects after the First World War: Contesting the nation-state

Dr Maria Falina (UCD, Centre for War Studies)

Comments: Dr William Mulligan (UCD, School of History)

The radicalization of leftist politics in the wake of the Russian Revolution

Prof. Maciej Janowski (Historical Institute, Warsaw/ CEU)

Comments: Prof. Robert Gerwarth

**13.30-14.30 Lunch**

**14.30-16.00**

**Post-1945/ I *The post Second World War "transition years"***

Experiencing the collapse of the old regime and anti-communist resistance movements

Dr Michal Kopecek (Institute of Contemporary History, Prague)

Comments: Dr Ivars Iabs (U of Latvia)

Debates on symbolic geographical reorientation

Dr Monika Baar (U of Leiden)

Comments: Dr Khrystyna Chushak (U of Lviv)

**16.00-16.30 Coffee break**

**16.30-18.00**

**Post 1945/ II *Character of Democracy***

Ideological debates on the character of democracy

Luka Lisjak Gabrijelcic (CEU)

Comments: Dr Balazs Apor (TCD)